

REMARKS

In item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 14-23 and 25-36 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration in view of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claim 14, the term “the reaction” has been amended to “said conversion” which finds proper antecedent basis in the preamble of amended Claim 14. Also within Claim 14, the language “wherein the amine-N oxide has three residues that comprise no more than 8 carbons atoms” has been amended to “said amine oxide has three residues each of which comprise no more than 8 carbon atoms.”

The phrase in Claims 14 and 30 has been amended to recite “wherein said residues optionally comprise at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and combinations, thereof,” which is proper Markush terminology.

The language pertaining to the β -hydrogen atom in Claims 14 and 28 has been amended to “said amine oxide has at least one residue having a β -hydrogen atom.” The Examiner’s objections to Claim 17 has been rendered moot by its cancellation.

The Examiner objected to Claim 15 because the phrase “part cyclic structures” as unclear. In response Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the hydrocarbon residues can be “... part of cyclic structures.”

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Reconsideration in view of this amendment is respectfully requested.

In response Claims 33 and 36 have been amended to recite “dibutyl tin mercaptide” which is fully supported in the original disclosure at page 8, lines 26-30.

In view of the foregoing discussion, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art. Allowance of all of the pending claims is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan B. Clement". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being more prominent.

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